

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed November 22, 2006, the Examiner noted that claims 1-27 were pending, and rejected claims 1-27. Claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended, and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1-27 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

In the Action on pages 3 and 4 the Examiner objected to the drawings (figs. 7 and 10) relative to the specification and the specification has been amended in consideration of the Examiners comments. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

On page 4 of the Action, the Examiner required that the drawings show the features of the claims including the "generating unit", the "model generating unit" and the "display unit." On pages 2 and 3 of the Action the Examiner interpreted these features of the claims to respectively correspond to the CPU, CPU and display of figure 10. The Examiners interpretation indicates that that these claim elements are shown in figure 10 contrary to the Examiner's assertion. This requirement is respectfully traversed.

In the Action, the Examiner maintained the rejection of all claims over Isaacs or Isaacs with Brittain or Isaacs with Brittain and Schuur. In the Action the Examiner, when addressing the display feature added to the claims pointed to Isaacs col. 11, lines 8-47 noting that when the angle between triangles is less than a user set value the points of the touching edges are removed. The removal of points deletes them from the model so that the edge no longer exists, which results in model resolution and complexity being reduced. This also results in a change in shape of the model producing what could be a large difference from the detailed shape of the original model.

In contrast, the present invention does not remove points from the model but rather suppresses the display of the edge line when the angle between plane normals is less than a predetermined value. That is, the points representing the edge line are not deleted but remain in the model. See "displaying the simplified model so ... a line between the adjacent planes is maintained in the model and not displayed" - claim 1.

By not removing the points/line but just suppressing their display, the present invention maintains the complexity and resolution of the model but displays it more simply. This allows any changes in the model to take into account the complexity and at a higher resolution than is possible in Isaacs. Additionally, by retaining the edge line, the original shape of the model is retained, and by suppressing the display of certain lines, a display of the model is produced

which facilitates viewing while at the same time maintains the detailed shape of the original model. This is a distinct improvement over Isaacs where points are removed.

Brittain adds nothing to Isaacs with respect to the features and benefits discussed above.

Schuur also adds nothing to Isaacs or Brittain with respect to the features and benefits discussed above.

It is submitted that the present claimed invention patentably distinguishes over Issacs and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The dependent claims depend from the above-discussed independent claims and are patentable over the prior art for the reasons discussed above. The dependent claims also recite additional features not taught or suggested by the prior art. For example, claim 7 emphasizes that points are selected to designate the displayed simplified model. The prior art does not teach or suggest such. It is submitted that the dependent claims are independently patentable over the prior art.

It is submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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